GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:333
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2001
CELLULAR LICENCES
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications had decided to fix a zero entry fee for the cellular licences for West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present operators in West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar;

(d) whether it is also a fact that in West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, no company has found it attractive to bid for these circles in the current round of bidding; and

(e) if so, the efforts being made to encourage the private sector for these circles?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 333 FOR 12TH DECEMBER, 2001 REGARDING CELLULAR LICENCES.

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The present operators (licensees) in West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar Telecom Circles are as below:-

Sl. No.	Telecom Circle	Service Area	Name of the company
1.	West Bengal		Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.
			Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
2.	Orissa		Reliance Telecom(P) Ltd.
			Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
3.	Bihar		Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.
			Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

(d) & (e): It is a fact that no bids were received for Andaman & Nicobar, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal Telecom Circles in the recent round of bidding. Therefore, Department of Telecommunications decided to seek recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). TRAI recommendations have since been received; further action is being taken.